

Kristin Swenson

Here in central Virginia (the Commonwealth of), I am cooking a pot of wild rice to bring to a friend whose husband is dying of cancer. The experience is especially poignant as wild rice is itself under attack. I am a Minnesotan who asks you to enforce the 10 mg/L sulfate standard at Keetac Mine because I love wild rice.

Growing up in northern Minnesota, wild rice was a staple food. I remember my mom cooking her wild rice casserole to bring to church pot lucks and my drinking the deeply comforting savory cooking broth when I felt a virus coming on. It nourishes body and soul.

My story is just one of so many across Minnesota. Our legislature passed the 10 mg/L sulfate standard specifically to protect wild rice precisely because the grain is so important to so many of our lives. That's why I ask you, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to control the pollution that threatens this plant. An out-of- state corporation's complaints that it will make less profit– not no profit– are simply not as important as the health, welfare, and culture of Minnesotans.